

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 DODE-00 PM-07 OC-06 CCO-00 CIAE-00

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P 022030Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4147

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 2453

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, CA

SUBJECT: BMEWS COMMUNICATIONS LINK

REF: STATE 167633

1. CCC HAS INFORMED DCASO THAT ITT HAS 23 PERSONNEL ON CNEWS SITES WHO WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN STRIKE AND COULDS PERFORM SOME FUNCTIONS. THESE ARE ALMOST ENTIRELY NON-TECHNICAL. ITT CAN MAKE AVAILABLE 16 ADDITIONAL AND TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL (ITT CANADIAN EMPLOYEES NOT CONNECTED WITH IBEW) WITHIN 3-10 DAYS. THESE INCLUDE ONE INSTRUMENT TECHNICIAN, THREE POWER PLANT OPERATORS, SIX ELECTRONIC TECHNICIANS AND SIX COMMUNICATIONS OPERATORS. ITT ESTIMATES THESE PERSONNEL- TOTAL 39- COULD KEEP CNEWS IN OPERATION UP TO 30 DAYS BARRING MAJOR BREAKDOWNS, PRESUMABLY INVOLVING IMPORT AND REPLACEMENT OF HEAVY OR COMPLICATED EQUIPMENT.

2. USAF HAS 15 TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED PERSONNEL AT GOOSE BAY. EXTAFF OFFICIALS THOUGH THERE WOULD BE NO RPT NO GOC OBJECTION TO THESE PERSONNEL VISITING SITES FOR INSPECTION OR TO CHECK ON SECURITY OF CNEWS. IN EVENT STRIKE, HOWEVER, THEY WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PERMITTED OPERATE OR REPAIR
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EQUIPMENT. EMBASSY BELIEVES THEY COULD GIVE

TECHNICAL ADVICE IF REQUIRED.

3. ITT ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL ARE PROBABLY TECHNICALLY COMPETENT TO KEEP CNEWS IN OPERATION WITH LITTLE OR NO ADVICE FROM USAF. LIMITING FACTOR IS HUMAN ENDURANCE. MOST OR ALL THESE PERSONNEL WOULD BE REQUIRED WORK 84 HOURS WEEKLY IN EVENT OF STRIKE, IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS IN REMOTE AREAS. MORALE AND OTHER PROBLEMS WOULD SOON ARISE, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE IS CONSIDERABLE DEMAND FOR PERSONS WILLING TO WORK IN THESE AREAS, TECHNICALLY QUALIFIED OR OTHERWISE. OPERATION BY NON-UNION ITT EMPLOYEES MIGHT FIVE SOME ADDITIONAL TIME DEVELOP OTHER SOLUTIONS, BUT CCC SUGGEST 30 DAYS IS OUTSIDE LIMIT.
PORTER

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Message Attributes

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